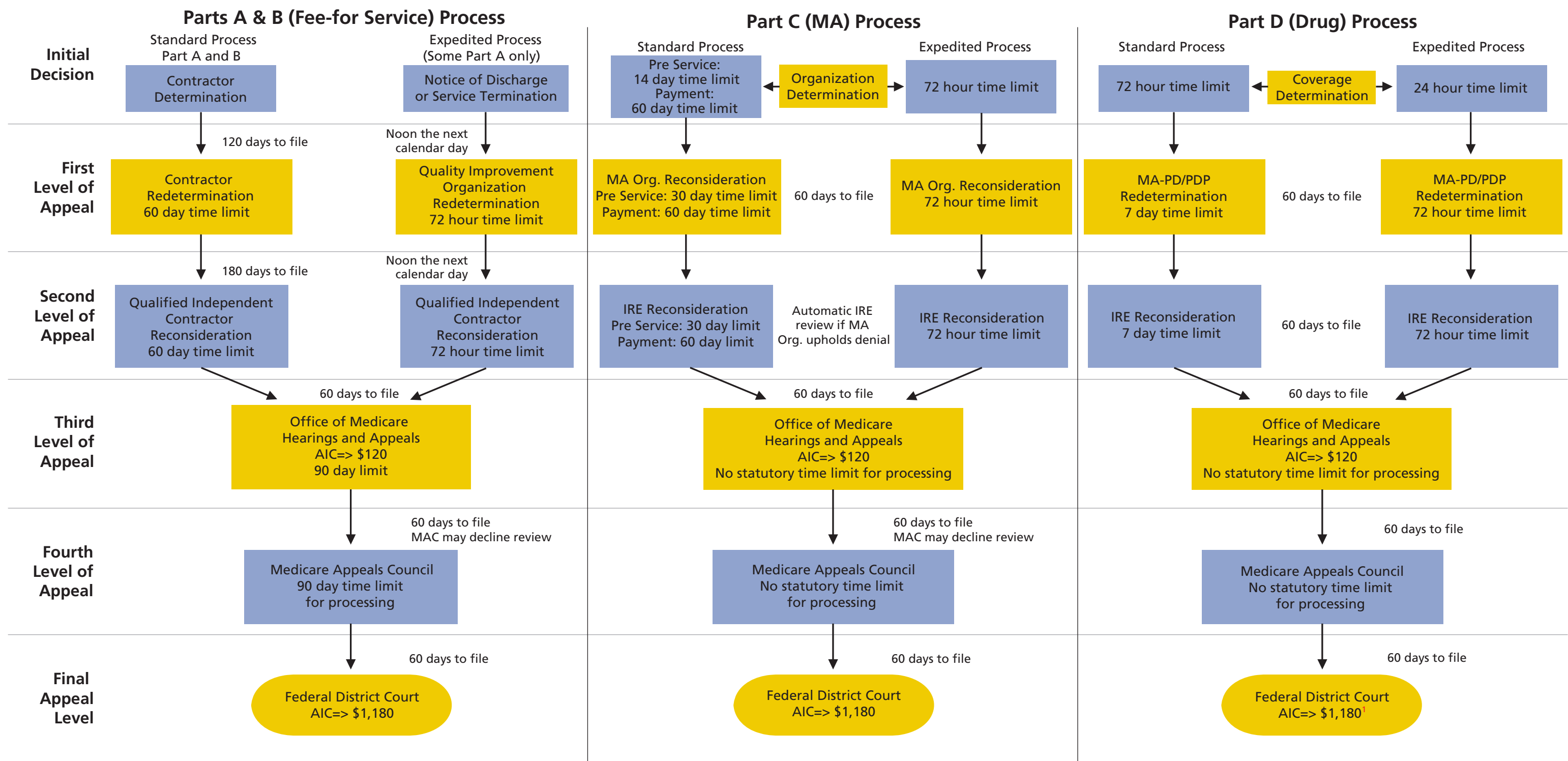


# Comparison of the Parts A, B, C, and D Appeal Processes



AIC = Amount in controversy  
ALJ = Administrative Law Judge  
Contractor = Fiscal Intermediary, Carrier or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)  
IRE = Independent Review Entity  
MA-PD = Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug  
MMA = Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement & Modernization Act of 2003  
PDP = Prescription Drug Plan  
QIC = Qualified Independent Contractor

<sup>1</sup>Starting in 2005, the AIC requirement for an ALJ hearing and Federal District Court will be adjusted in accordance with the medical care component of the consumer price index.